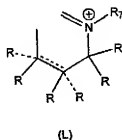
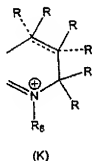
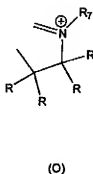
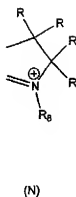
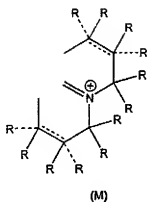


**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES
MADE, AND LISTING OF ALL CLAIMS WITH PROPER IDENTIFIERS**

- 1-3. (Canceled)
4. (Currently amended) The carboxamide-substituted dye as claimed in claim 34 4, in which Cyc1 is substituted or unsubstituted phenyl, naphthyl, pyridyl or cyclohexyl.
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Currently amended) The carboxamide-substituted dye as claimed in claim 34 4, in which R_1 is bridged with R_8 or R_3 is bridged with R_7 or R_1 is bridged with R_8 and R_3 is bridged with R_7 forming a ring system
7. (Previously presented) The carboxamide-substituted dye as claimed in claim 6, in which the ring system comprises 5- or 6-membered rings.
8. (Currently amended) The carboxamide-substituted dye as claimed in claim 7, in which a ring system of the structure (K), (L), (M), (N) or (O) is formed:





in which ~~and~~ the dashed lines are optionally double bonds in the presence of which the moieties bound via a dashed line are absent.

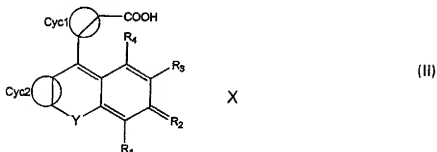
9-14. (Cancelled)

15. (Previously presented) The carboxamide-substituted dye as claimed in claim 8, in which Cyc1 is optionally substituted phenyl, Cyc2 has the structure (E) and Y = oxygen and R₇ and R₃ form a ring system (K).

16-20. (Cancelled)

21. (Currently amended) A process for preparing carboxamide-substituted dyes of the formula (I) as claimed in claim 34, comprising the following steps:

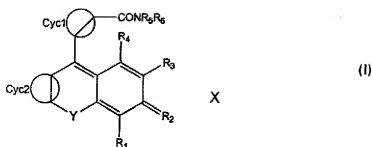
- (a) converting the carboxyl group of a dye of the formula (II)



in which the moieties are defined as indicated in claim 34 4, into an activated form;

- (b) reacting the activated dye obtained in step (a) with a secondary amine HNR_5R_6 ; and
 (c) optionally isolating the carboxamide-substituted dye of the formula (I) obtained in step (b).

22. (Original) The process as claimed in claim 21, in which step (a) is carried out at temperatures of from room temperature to 60°C.
23. (Previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 21, in which an aprotic solvent is used in step (b).
24. (Previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 21 in which N-hydroxysuccinimide, N-hydroxyphthalimide, N-hydroxynaphthalimide, O-(N-succinimidyl)-N,N,N',N'-tetramethyluronium tetrafluoroborate (TSTU) are used for activation.
- 25-33 (Cancelled);
34. (Currently amended) A carboxamide-substituted dye of the formula (I)



in which

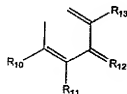
Y = oxygen, R_1 , R_3 , R_4 are independently hydrogen, halogen, $-O^\ominus$, a hydroxyl group, thiol group, amino group, ammonium group, sulfo group, phospho group, nitro group, carbonyl group, carboxyl group, a carboxylic acid derivative, a nitrile group, isonitrile group, cyanate group, isocyanate group, thiocyanate group, isothiocyanate group or a straight-chain, branched or cyclic saturated or unsaturated hydrocarbon group having up to 40 carbon atoms;



in which

R_7 , R_8 , independently are hydrogen or a straight-chain, branched or cyclic saturated or unsaturated hydrocarbon group having up to 40 carbon atoms; or

R_1 together with R_2 is



in which

R_{10} , R_{11} , R_{13} are as defined for R_1 , R_3 , R_4 ;



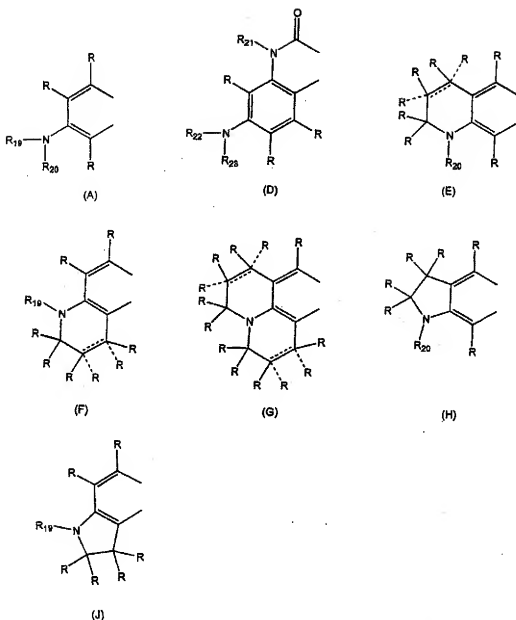
in which

R_{16} , R_{17} , are as defined for R_7 , R_8 ,

R_5 , R_6 , independently are a straight-chain, branched or cyclic saturated or unsaturated hydrocarbon group having up to 40 carbon atoms, wherein at least one of R_5 and R_6 comprises a carboxy group;

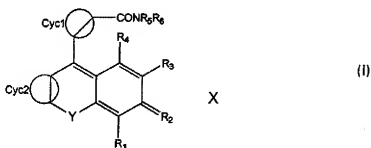
Cyc1 is an organic moiety which comprises a ring system selected from aromatic, heteroaromatic, quinoidal and cycloaliphatic rings; wherein Cyc 1 is substituted with $-\text{CONR}_5\text{R}_6$ at the ortho-position of the ring attached to a backbone of formula (I) ;

Cyc2 is an organic moiety which comprises a ring system selected from aromatic, heteroaromatic, quinoidal and cycloaliphatic rings; wherein Cyc2 has a structure selected from (A), (D), (E), (F), (H) or (J),



in which R in each case independently is defined as R₁, R₃, R₄; R₁₉, R₂₀ and the dashed lines are optionally double bonds in the presence of which the moieties bound via a dashed line are absent, each of said moieties in the dye of the formula (I) being able to form a ring system with one or more neighboring moieties; and X being one or more mono- or multivalent anions, when required for balancing the charge; and wherein at least one of R₁, R₃, R₄, R₁₀, R₁₁, R₁₃ and R is a sulfo group.

35. (Currently amended) A carboxamide-substituted dye of the formula (I)



in which

Y = oxygen, R₁ R₁' R₃ R₃' R₄ and R₄' are independently hydrogen, halogen, -O[⊖], a hydroxyl group, thiol group, amino group, ammonium group, sulfo group, phospho group, nitro group, carbonyl group, carboxyl group, a carboxylic acid derivative, a nitrile group, isonitrile group, cyanate group, isocyanate group, thiocyanate group, isothiocyanate group or a straight-chain, branched or cyclic saturated or unsaturated hydrocarbon group having up to 40 carbon atoms; wherein at least one of R₁, R₁' R₃ R₃' R₄ and R₄' is a sulfo group



R₅, R₆, independently are a straight-chain, branched or cyclic saturated or unsaturated hydrocarbon group having up to 40 carbon atoms; wherein at least one of R₅ and R₆ comprises a carboxy group

R₇, R₈, R₁₉ R₂₀ independently are hydrogen or a straight-chain, branched or cyclic saturated or unsaturated hydro carbon group having up to 40 carbon atoms,

Cyc1 is an organic moiety which comprises a ring system selected from aromatic, heteroaromatic, quinoidal and cycloaliphatic rings; wherein Cyc

1 is substituted with $-\text{CONR}_5\text{R}_6$ at the ortho-position of the ring attached to a backbone of formula (I) :

36. (Previously presented) The carboxamide-substituted dye of the formula (I) of claim 34, wherein R_7 R_8 independently are straight-chained saturated hydrocarbon groups.
37. (Previously presented) The carboxamide-substituted dye of the formula (I) of claim 35, wherein R_1 R_7 independently are sulfo groups.